LETTERS

Parents and pot

One of Betty McCaughey's ma-
jor concerns is how marijuana affects the brain. Teens and chil-
dren ("Lost in the Weeds: Pot's Impact on Kids," PostOpini-
on, March 20).

This is not an issue, as mari-
juana will only be legal for those 21 and over. Making something illegal because of how it affects teens is ludicrous. If that's the con-
cern, why is alcohol still legal? Think about that next time you have a glass of wine.

While I am a firm legalization sup-
porter, I can certainly under-
stand her concern on children and teens. However, the answer isn't keeping marijuana illegal: It's better parenting.

Michael Petter, East tisp

A fur-diculous bill

Why is Albany looking at ban-
ing a major New York City in-
dustry without considering the impli-
cations for thousands of busi-
nesses and their employees? "Dem wants to go fur broke," March 19? Not to nomenion the impact on consum-
ers, for whom fur remains in high demand.

This past year, fur contributed roughly $600 million to the city's economy. The fur industry is al-
vanced and highly reg-
uled in the country, ensuring its products are produced hu-
manely and sustainably. It's not the business of govern-
ment to be the fashion police.

Consumers, not lawmakers, have always determined what they can and can't wear. If a consumer opposes fur products, he can simply make another choice.

Marche Nea, president, Marcella
Pars & Leather Inc., Amarillo, Texas

Vetting for profits

Your editorial, "Casino's War on Hope" (March 17) forgot about veterans. Veterans organiza-
tions, including the American Legion, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, the Associa-
tion of the US Navy and a dozen others, are calling on Albany to enact Gov. Cuomo's For-Profit
Veterans Accountability Act.

Why? Because unscrupulous for-
profit colleges target veterans and teens. As Gen. David Petraeus' wife Holly has written, this loophole
leads for-profit colleges to "see service members as nothing more than dollar signs in uni-
form, and to use aggressive marketing to draw them in."

In Albany last week, New York
veteran Michelle Kernan testi-
fied. "As a veteran who has served this country, I was look-
ing forward to bettering my fu-
ture by obtaining my degree. In-
stead, I was misled by a for-
profit college that has put a fi-
nancial burden on my life."

Let's help veterans.

Raymond Curtis, Veterans
Education Success, Brooklyn

Stop & frisk fallout

I read that "stop-and-frisk" by police were down 99 percent.
The article in the "Singhanger shot in Qns." (March 10), on top of the shooting last month of a person on a subway platform, indicates that there is no longer any fear of being caught carrying weapons into subways or on the streets. I think there may be a correla-
tion.

Bob Fishman, Somers

MEANINGS

Omar of Minnesota surely meant to oppose US policy toward Israel but somehow couldn't quite manage to do it without being obviously anti-Se-
nitic — "Jewish has hypnotized the world." "It's all about the Benjamin's baby." It caused an uproar; she apolo-
gized, but it seems never to have oc-
curred to her that you can't talk about your fellow Americans that way. Or that she is a public figure and has to actually model admirable behavior.

Ocasio-Cortez is quick — quicker in aggression. Her default position, behind the smiles and hugs and warmth and dancing, is the pointed, accusatory finger. From just the past two weeks. The New Deal was "an ex-
tremely economically racist policy," Ronald Reagan "pitted white working-
class Americans against brown and black working Americans in order to just screw over all working-class Americans," so he too was racist. Pretty much everyone on the political scene was racist until Ocasio-Cortez arrived.

I am not talking about mere com-
portment, and none of this is a mistu-
ture of temperament. It is a strategy and it is working. Polarization yields prominence. They equate peacefull-
ness with complacency. Politico's Tim
Alberta spoke with Omar this week. "I am certain not looking to be com-
fortable, and I don't want everyone to feel comfortable around me," she said. "I think really the most exciting things happen when people are extremely uncomfortable."

I'm sure she'll do what she can to keep things exciting.

As for the limitations of the new style, they are making category errors. Courtesy, for instance, is not coward-
ly. It is not shrinking from real truths or their bracing expression. Courtesy is simply an act of public or private re-
spect that comes from self-discipline and self-discipline is not boring and antiseptic. It's a heroic little item that helps civilization to continue.

There is always a great temptation among the young in politics, and espe-
cially of the left, to see common re-
spect as an admission of insincerity in opposing party. If you believe in com-
pany, you're just a Breeder — fierce and rude. They see courtesy as according to bourgeois political norms, when they are certain the bourgeoisie estab-
lished those norms so they'd never be called out and forced to admit their culpability.

They believe that to be enraged is to demonstrate seriousness. It is to show that you understand the urgency of the moment, even if others don't. To believe in a way that shows respect for the humanity of others is to con-
cede too much. After all, if they were truly human they'd just be enraged as you are.

You must be crude to show the au-
thenticity of your contempt for intu-
duce. A sincere word is a useless word. But in reality you can't have justice without mercy, it doesn't work. I think we all know where this started, the political brutishness, the ignoring of traditions and norms. Donald Trump is both origin and na-
tional.

The men girls of Congress have learned at his knee. They have taken his tactics from him. They claim to be his relevant imitators but I think they admire his ferocity. They have a taste for it, and a talent. They are good at being the thing they supposedly despise. They are not the antidote to the current brutality but an iteration of it.

They are his natural children.

From The Wall Street Journal

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